

Sharon Grove La.

Feb. 24. 1904,

My dear Mr. West,

 Late last night
your letter came to us with its
sad sad news, and I am entirely
at a loss to express my feelings
to you. When we had such sorrow
from the loss of a loved one.
All that was said or written to
us only seemed to make it
worse, and make me feel that
they too had lost, which is always
true. And you no doubt will feel
the same. Time alone is the only
thing that makes our sorrow less.
But through it all you have the
sweet and helpful thought that
you have done all that was possible,
not only during her last illness,
but always to protect and shield her
and she has only gone a little while,
before you and I shall follow.
From your letter saying she was
failing so fast I feared you might
be too late, and could not dismiss
it from my mind until we got
your next. Then I felt so thankful
that she was yet conscious, for then
I knew with you there, all would be
just as she wished. I did not
write for at any time it only
seemed a question of hours, and I
did not think they would reach you.
I felt you knew where our hearts
and thoughts were for you and yours,
and many many times I wished
that we could be near you so that
our hands could have done for
you the same you did for us
when we were in trouble. Your
sad lonely journey was terrible I know
and I fear that after all is over will

be almost more, than you can
stand not feeling very well. It
always has seemed to me you have
always been so strong in time of
need, and I trust you are favored
this time with unusual health
and strength. How I wish we
could be with you, if we could
only be a little comfort. We will
be very anxious, until we hear
from you again and learn
something of your plans. I
hope you will plan for a rest
and if possible avoid the cold
bad spring that you always have
at the Heights. We have no plans
as yet and will not have until
Hale has a little more rest and
his ankle is a little stronger.
He is writing to you now.
I will not write more today
and will write again as soon
as we hear from you and know
where you will be. I hope this
will reach you as you will
very likely be at the Heights a
day or so. With my very best
thoughts and wishes for you I
hope you will be very careful
and not get sick, and that
we will hear from you again
very soon. Love to you, from

Margaret.